

News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine March 2017

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First Words

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 1st March. We will start the season with Communion at 7.30pm with the option of having ashes made from past years' palm crosses 'imposed' on our foreheads. The ashes remind us that we come from dust and we will return to dust. This reminder of mortality is not to make us depressed but to remind us that we were made for eternity with the Father, and our true home is in God's kingdom.

During Lent we will be following Paula Gooder's *Everyday God*. Gooder writes, "Here we discover how to celebrate the ordinary in all its forms and find majesty in mundane routine as much as in regal splendour."

The Lent course will be on Wednesday evenings starting at 7.30pm to 9pm and ending with Night Prayer.

There will be time to meet together for prayer seeking God's vision for our Church. The Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 11th March and the Prayer and Praise on Sunday 26th March will be times to pray together, listening to and sharing what God is saying to us.

Whether or not you can make the Prayer Breakfast or the Prayer and Praise, please take one of the green 'Prayer for Vision' leaflets in Church and open time this Lent praying for our Church and listening to God. St Mary's is not my Church or yours; it is not the bishop's Church or the Diocese's. It is Jesus' Church and we are only truly the Church when Jesus is at the centre of our life and worship and mission.

Finally on Palm Sunday (9th April) we will be hosting concert of Charles Wesley's hymns at 6.30pm in place of our usual evening service. Please put this date into your diaries and watch out for more information.

Details of the special services for Holy Week and Easter will be in April's magazine.

God bless,

Tim



Front Cover – Winter Flowering Cherry Tree – *Prunus Autumnalis Rosea*

Back Cover – Music For Everyone Poster

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Thought for the Month

At the end of April, on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th April, we will be having a 'Parish Weekend At Home.' It is a time to celebrate together. There will be a special service on Sunday Morning followed by a 'bring and share lunch' and a time of fellowship in the Gatty Hall.

On the Saturday morning we will meet in Church to begin to discover what God has been placing on our hearts; to discover what God is calling us to do and to be as the Body of Christ in this time and place. This is a meeting that is not just for the PCC but for any and every member of St Mary's, including children.

For the next couple of months we are all challenged to ask God to speak to us, to show us His vision for St Mary's. There will be opportunities to meet together to worship and pray and listen for God's voice (details in the **First Words**). There is a prayer leaflet for every member of Church to help us to pray through these weeks either as individuals or families or in groups.

Continues over page

Thought for the Month - *continued*

How we pray does not matter, what is important is that we pray, every one of us, with the expectation that God **does** speak and that He **will** speak to us if we listen.

The God of the Bible is a God who speaks, who communicates. Not only through specially anointed individuals, but to and through any one of His people. We are all a royal priesthood and a holy temple. We are all God's beloved children and He is our Father. He has plan for us, for our lives and for His Church here in Ecclesfield.

In the first of our meetings to seek God's word for us at this time we were challenged not to dream too small. I believe that if our vision truly comes from God it will surprise us and it will challenge us. It will not be something that we can achieve or accomplish in our own wisdom and strength. We will have to depend on God and not on ourselves.

On our own we can achieve a little; if we follow God's call, if we work in the strength of the Holy Spirit and under the authority of Jesus then there is nothing that we cannot do. We can change the world.

Two thousand years ago the disciples, ordinary fishermen and tax collectors from Galilee began to transform lives and change the world. They had learned in their three years with Jesus, as they walked with Him to the Cross and met Him at the empty tomb, that without Him they could do nothing, but that if they abide in Him there is nothing that they cannot do.

I do not believe that God or Jesus has changed. God wants to transform lives with the hope and promise of His kingdom and He wants to change the world so that it looks a little more like His kingdom. And I believe that the reason that Jesus has called His Church and has called us into His Church is because we, like those first disciples, are the people through whom He will fulfil His kingdom vision.

So put the weekend of the 29th April into your calendar. And above all pray whether you can make the meeting in April or not. Pray in church and at home, pray together and pray when alone. Trust that God is a God who speaks to those who are willing to listen and follow.

God has a vision for St Mary's.

God Bless,

Tim.

Prayer for the month

This month, not so much a prayer but a spiritual practice which goes alongside prayer: Fasting (see **Matthew 6:16-18**).

Lent is a time to reflect on our relationship with God and to give particular attention to those things which get in the way of that relationship or which prevent us from being the people that God is calling us to be. It is also a time to focus on the things which help us to grow closer to God and to our 'true selves'.

This is why Lent is a season for prayer and fasting: prayer is easy to see the value of, but fasting is a little more alien to us. It seems to belong to a past world. It seems to be about inflicting suffering on ourselves as if suffering is some sort of virtue in itself. There seems to be very little of the Gospel in it!

In Lent many of us will give something up - chocolate or alcohol are probably the most popular. I once tried to give up coffee and after two weeks of head-ache I put the percolator back on!

There are at least five good reasons to practice fasting. Firstly Jesus expects that His followers will fast. In Matthew 6:16 He says to the disciples "**when** you fast," not "if you fast"!

The second reason, the negative reason is that it can be a way of correcting some over-indulgence, a way of saying that I am in control of my appetites and not controlled by them. This is why I give up chocolate every Lent. Chocolate is a great gift of God through creation, but eating too much of it is not good for me!

The third reason for fasting is that it strengthens our will power. We learn to say 'No' to ourselves. Perhaps the thing that we are fasting from is something that is actively harming our relationship with God or with others. I have heard of people giving up social media for a season, and using the time that is gained to pray, to read the Bible and to communicate with others face to face. I have heard of others who decide to 'give up' listening to gossip at work, refusing to join in with pulling others down.

A fourth good reason for fasting is that it can be a radical witness in society. At a time when alcohol abuse was causing great social problems Methodists were known for being teetotal. It was a great witness in its day. Sometimes I think that it might be a witness that God is calling some of us to once again.

Continues on page 16

Letter from St James the Least of All - On Weddings in Spring

The Rectory
James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Just as undertakers rub their hands in glee at the coming of Winter frosts, so hoteliers with banqueting suites become animated at the first signs of Spring. We have arrived at the first phase of the marriage season. As the days begin to lengthen and trees start to bud, young men find it irresistible not to propose to potential brides. Some people wait to hear the first cuckoo to let them know Spring is on its way; I wait to hear the first knock on the Rectory door from couples wanting to book their wedding.

Naturally, my first job is to try to put them off; it would save them a great deal of money and give me many more free Saturdays. But I always fail, and so the big day is booked. Nowadays, there is such a time lag between booking a marriage service and it taking place, I sometimes think it would be easier to book the service first and then look for someone to marry at a later, more convenient, time.

Last year, it was somewhat different with one couple. They were both in their late eighties (a good time to contemplate a first marriage, in my opinion) and asked if they could arrange to get married as soon as possible. The usual reason for a hurried marriage seemed unlikely at their age and so I asked why. Their answer was charming: "At our age, we might not still be here if the great day is much delayed."

Of course, booking a marriage is the simplest part of the whole procedure. There are florists to negotiate with - made even more complex should there be more than one marriage that day. One bride wants all white, the other red, and so one set of priceless flowers is trundled out of church by one set of florists while a competitor barrows in the next confection.

Photographers are inclined to think aisles are racetracks, pews for standing on and that all church furniture is moveable - generally once the service has started. I place all photographers in the west gallery before the service and lock them in - apologising for my fit of absentmindedness afterwards.

Courses should be offered at theological colleges on placating irate bell-ringers when the bride is half-an-hour late, cooling down organists when the happy couple ask to come in to an organ arrangement of a Led Zepplin number, and re-assuring the choir that the guests meant no disrespect as they made mobile phone calls in church while the choir sang Ave Maria, once we had disappeared to sign the registers.

However, nothing will ever calm down a verger who has been left to sweep up several hundredweights of confetti once everyone else has gone home. Personally, I find a restorative sherry back at the rectory works wonders.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

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Mothers Union

Our Afternoon meeting was held on 1st February, our speaker being Sylvia Charles.

First of all we celebrated Norma Priest's special birthday with drinks and cakes and hoped she had a lovely day on the actual date of 13th February. We also wished Norma along with Arthur a good holiday.

Stephanie opened the meeting with notices and prayers. Audrey Sidebottom was the leader of the short service and spoke of how we should think of those needing care in the world and also in our own community.

Stephanie then welcomed our speaker Sylvia. Sylvia spoke to us about the creation (Genesis) and how we too are meant to be creative. Sylvia spoke to us about the many ways in which we can be creative in the home and in the garden. Crafts – making gifts, knitting, sewing, potting plants, cake baking, marmalade and jam making, wood crafts, beads etc., be inventive.

Sylvia said we can all be creative if we try. It gives a sense of achievement it can also be a source of raising money for the various charities and needy causes. It can also be money saving on our own pockets.

Sylvia who is very creative herself brought with her various items she had made herself like the delicious ginger and marmalade loaf we shared, homemade marmalade and jam, Pegbags, gift bags, card and bookmarks. The gift bags along with items inside can make a very nice gift. So be inspired and get creative.

HR



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Will You Remember Them - Somalia

On 8th February, MPs gathered at Mogadishu's airport and voted for the former Prime Minister Abdollahi Farmajo, to become president. Despite attacks from Islamist militant group al-Shabaab in the run-up to the elections, tight security measures enabled the elections to take place in peace. As well as combating an impending famine, the new government will face severe challenges from Islamist militants within the country, al-Shabaab has stated that it 'wants Somalia free of all Christians' and that it is responsible for killing many Christians both in Somalia and nearby Kenya.

Somalia is now the second most dangerous country in the world for Christians after North Korea. In Somalia, Christians have to hide their faith as they face persecution both from extremist groups and from tribal leaders, who see being Somali as being Muslim, leaving Islam is therefore a betrayal of the tribe. Last year at least 12 Christians were killed for their faith, but the real number is likely to be higher as, for their own safety, families may want to hide if their relative was killed for following Jesus.

But Christians also face persecution from general society and from the law. Believers from a Muslim background are at risk of being abused and ostracised if their family or community discovers their faith. Article 17 indicates that every person is free to practise his or her religion in Somalia. The country's constitution also says that no religion other than Islam can be propagated.

Please Pray

- Thank God that the election process took place in peace.
- That God would move President Farmajo to bring religious freedom and protect believers.
- That Somali Christians would be protected as they bravely spread God's Word, despite the danger.

JD

Editor: Christianity is a minority religion in Somalia, with adherents representing less than 0.1% of the population in 2010 according to the Pew Research Center. There is one Catholic diocese for the whole country, the Diocese of Mogadishu, which estimates that there were only about 100 Catholic practitioners in 2004. In 1913, during the early part of the colonial era, there were virtually no Christians in the Somali territories, with only about 100–200 followers coming from the schools and orphanages of the few Catholic missions in the British Somaliland protectorate. There were also no known Catholic missions in Italian Somaliland during the same period. In December 2013, the Ministry of Justice and Religious Affairs also released a directive prohibiting the celebration of Christian festivities in the country.

Prayer for the Parish Weekend at Home

On Monday 20th February 2017, the first of a series of prayer events was held for the Parish Weekend at Home. Whilst I was preparing, reflecting and praying for the event, I was led to looking again at a prayer which has inspired me many times in the past. It is the prayer of Sir Francis Drake:

Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas
Where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.

We ask you to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push back the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

This we ask in the name of our Captain,
Who is Jesus Christ. **Amen**

I believe we must think big and not do things in our own strength but in God's strength and there we will find God's calling for the church. We should embark on the exciting journey expecting 'to venture on wilder seas', so we must put our trust in God absolutely.



Sir Francis Drake, vice admiral
(c. 1540 – 27 January 1596)

Katharine Lonsborough



MAD MARCH GALES

The month of March has a reputation for a wild and blustery start but usually changes to much milder weather before it ends ... as the old saying goes *'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'*.

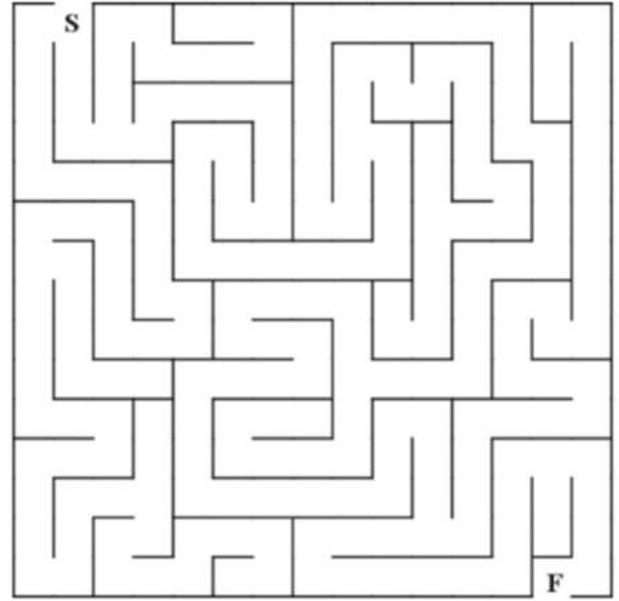
People's homes are flooded or big trees uprooted in high winds. Even if it doesn't happen to us we see the pictures of other people's suffering in the media.

There was a time when Jesus' friends were frightened because a fierce storm blew up while they were fishing. The disciples thought their boat was going to sink and they were very frightened. You can read about it in St Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, verses 35-39.

I get frightened when the wind blows so hard that the trees bend and the lights flicker but then I remember that Jesus is with us all the time. Just as He was with the disciples in the boat, He is with us when we are afraid. Jesus gives us hope, courage and strength.

SAFELY HOME

Can you find your way home through the maze of streets?



What did the north wind say to the east wind?

Let's play draughts



How easy is it for wind gusts to talk to each other?

It is a breeze.

What does a cloud wear under her raincoat?

Thunderwear!

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St Mary's – Regular Services

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP) - On 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

10.00 am Services

1st Sunday of the month - Parish Communion with organ and choir

2nd Sunday of the month - Service of the Word with music group

3rd Sunday of the month - Parish Communion with organ, choir and music group

4th Sunday of the month - Parish Communion with organ, choir and music group

5th Sunday of the month - Sunday Celebration Services

12:00 pm Baptism Service

Baptism Service 1st Sunday of the month – (Except: August no baptisms)

4.00 pm Living Stones Service

An interactive service for children and families 3rd Sunday of the month

6.30 pm Evening Service

Except: 2nd Sunday of the month Holy Communion and 4th Sunday of the month Prayer and Praise

Midweek Holy Communion – Thursdays at 9.30 am

Eva Ratcliffe Service - 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am

St Mary's - Activities & Groups

Church Office Opening times

Tuesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Wednesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

Coffee Shop

Tuesday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Friday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Bell Ringers

Tuesday 7.30 pm Bell ringing practice

Friday 7.30 pm Silent Bell ringing practice

Choir Practice

Friday 7.30 pm Choir practice in choir vestry

Music Group Practice

Thursday 7:30 pm Music group practice in church

Church Diary Items to Note for March 2017

Day and Date	Time	Item
Sunday 5 th	12 noon	Baptism Service
Monday 6 th	7.30 pm	PCC meets in Church
Wednesday 8 th	7.30 pm	Lent Meeting in Church
Saturday 11 th	9.00 am	Prayer Breakfast
Monday 13 th	7.30 pm	Fabric Team Meeting
Tuesday 14 th	5.30 pm	Feoffees meet in Church
Wednesday 15 th	7.30 pm	Lent Meeting in Church
Sunday 19 th	4.00 pm	Living Stones
Wednesday 22 nd	7.30 pm	Lent Meeting in Church
Saturday 25 th	10.00 am	Mothers' Union Coffee Morning in Church
Sunday 26 th	6.30 pm	Prayer and Praise Service
Monday 27 th	7.30 pm	Ignatian Prayer in Church
Wednesday 29 th	7.30 pm	Lent Meeting in Church

From the Registers

Baptisms

5th February	Eden-Marie Phelps
5th February	Lois Ivy Garfitt Brown
5th February	Ava-Rose Fidler

May they know the love of God in their lives and may all things of the Spirit live and grow in them.

Funerals

6th February	Betty Glave	86
14th February	George Roberts	90
16th February	Dorothy Stocks	94
20th February	June Thistlewood	78
22nd February	Julia Mary Raynes	71
22nd February	Michael Noel Gratton	75
1st March	Avis Annie Flint	87

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace.

Flower Rota March 2017 - Lent No Flowers

Prayer for the month – *continued*

Alcohol is not wrong or bad in itself, but our inability to use it responsibly is harmful.

Regular fasting is a spiritual habit that Christians have followed for most of the past two thousand years. It is only in recent decades that it is no longer practiced. The testimony of Christians who fast regularly, at Lent and throughout the year, is that it teaches a deeper dependence on God. This fifth reason is perhaps the most important.

I encourage you to search the scriptures, look at examples of fasting in the Bible - Daniel is a good place to start - and maybe ask God if this is something for you.

God bless you this Lent. I pray that it will be a time when every one of us grows closer to Christ.

Tim

Lent, Holy Week and Easter at St Mary's

Lent Course - *Everyday God* by Paula Gooder

Wednesday 8th March 7.30 - 9pm

Wednesday 15th March 7.30 - 9pm

Wednesday 22nd March 7.30 - 9pm

Wednesday 29th March 7.30 - 9pm

Wednesday 5th April 7.30 - 9pm

We will end with the service of *Night Prayer*

Holy Week begins Palm Sunday 9th April

Maundy Thursday 13th April 7.30pm

Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by an (optional) hour's silent prayer
(Remembering Jesus request that the disciples stay with Him for one hour)

Good Friday 14th April, 12 noon - 3pm

Three Hours at the Cross

From 12 -2pm there will be a reading, hymn and brief reflection every half hour *Please enter or leave just before the half hour*

From 2-3pm we will have the special service of readings and prayers for Good Friday

Easter Day 16th April

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Easter Eucharist

6.30pm Evening worship for Easter

The Gardening Year – March 2017

This month has the most pronounced variations from day to day and the widest variations from year to year. The contrast between weather in the north and south is at its greatest. The gardener must take every advantage of dry spells in March to complete his spring cultivations he must not be misled by short periods of warm weather into thinking that spring has finally arrived. It is often safer to delay sowings or plantings than to be caught by a subsequent cold spell.

Roses – complete planting as early as possible in the month, if the beds have not been prepared dig them to a spade depth incorporating compost and a hand full of bone meal to each plant. Make each planting hole wide enough to take the spread-out roots, and of such a depth that the point where the green stem emerges from the brown rootstock is 1in. below the level of the surrounding soil. On bright days spray the plants with clean water during the morning or afternoon so as to induce a moist atmosphere and encourage dormant buds to break into growth. Do not spray during the evening because the foliage should be dry by the time the temperature has dropped at nightfall. Sow the hardier sorts of annual out of doors if the weather and soil conditions are favourable. Sowing in cold ill prepared soil is a waste of time and seed. The first signs of spring growth on the lawn show that the soil is warming up. When the weather is fine and the soil is dry plant out hardy perennials raised from seed. Scatter slug pellets around plants in the open ground and in frames. Choose a weather resistant brand or protect from rain with an upturned seed tray. Please remember that slug pellets WILL KILL HEDGEHOGS so do not disperse them indiscriminately.

Alpines – firm into place any plants loosened by frosts. As the soil surface becomes drier hoe lightly between the plants to kill newly germinated weed seedlings. A dressing of fine gravel or stone chippings will suppress most weeds, but will also preclude use of a hoe on those that do appear. Where chippings are not used, a short handled onion hoe with a 2-3in. blade is the best implement for working among alpines, but some weeds such as annual grasses and groundsel which carry a good deal of soil among their roots when pulled out are better cut off with an old knife just below ground level.

Trees and Shrubs – Flowering tree and shrubs should deserve a place in every garden. Few plants offer such a varied beauty for so little work. Evergreens remain attractive right through the year even with snow on the ground and lend an air of maturity to a garden after they have been growing for a few years. They are especially effective when planted at a focal point or used as a permanent screen. Take into consideration the ultimate height and spread of tree and shrubs. Do not plant tall-growing evergreens on the south or west boundaries of a small garden, otherwise shadows will be cast over a wide area – particularly when the sun is low in winter. *Continues over page*

Container - grown shrubs and trees which are planted with an unbroken soil ball, can be put in now or at almost any other time. These are particularly useful for filling gaps in existing shrubberies.

Vegetables – for the main crop of Brussels sprouts, sow the seeds at the end of the month, also parsnips can be planted and main crop peas such as onward, in my opinion the sweetest pea you can grow. Onions sets can also be planted this month. Last year I grew an onion set called silver moon and it was very good indeed.

Colin Williams

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Mirror, Mirror on the Wall – how do you see yourself this Lent?

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, *'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!'* Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, *'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'* (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: social action, political power, and religious identity (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus looked into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He would be.

We can also think of Lent as an opportunity to hold a mirror up to ourselves and ask the question, *'who am I?'* It is a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and the world in which we live. How will you keep Lent period of 40 days running up to Easter? What will you see when you hold up the mirror to yourself? Alongside taking time to read Scripture, study a Christian book and pray with fasting, why not give up texting for Lent and simply talk on the phone; commit ourselves to just working 40 hours a week or spend five minutes each day in silence!

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

The Rev Paul Hardingham



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

	C	O	R	I	N	T	H	I	A	N	S	
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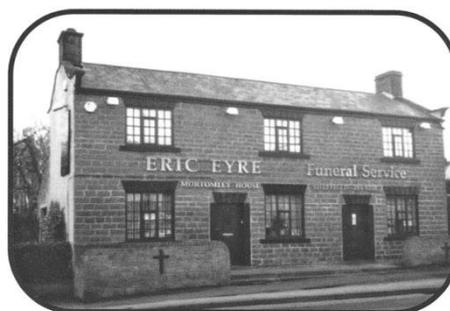
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Saints of the Month

21st March - Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr

If you have ever been caught up in a great event at work, which has gone on to change your own life, then Thomas Cranmer is the saint for you. He was the first ever Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, following King Henry VIII's decision to pull away from Rome, and set up the Church of England.

Born in Nottingham in 1489, Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533. He was adviser to both Henry VIII and Edward VI. He helped Henry with the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and along with Thomas Cromwell, supported the principle of Royal Supremacy (where the king is sovereign over the Church in his realm).

Under Edward VI, Thomas Cranmer made major reforms to the CofE. He put the English Bible into parish churches, compiled the first two versions of the Book of Common Prayer, and worked with continental reformers to change doctrine on everything from the Eucharist and veneration of saints.

But kings and queens, like American presidents, change, and the Catholic queen Mary I was determined to wipe out Protestantism. Thomas Cranmer was imprisoned for two years, found guilty of heresy, and burned at the stake on 21st March, 1556.

27th March - Rupert the salty

Rupert is the saint for you if you like The Sound of Music – or salt with your food!

Rupert (d c 710) was bishop of Worms and Salzburg, and it was he who founded the great monastery of St Peter in Salzburg in the eighth century, thus firmly establishing Christianity in that city. True, it would be another 11 centuries before a certain young wanna-be-nun wandered about singing of her Favourite Things and Something Good, but you have start somewhere.

In the meantime, Rupert also helped the people of Salzburg by developing the salt-mines nearby. This was 'something good' as well, because it brought in an income. Though if salt became a too 'favourite thing', it would also have raised the locals' blood pressure.

Rupert's iconographical emblem is a barrel of salt, which makes sense, but is not as romantic as raindrops on roses, or whiskers on kittens.

Meditation on a cyclamen

At a recent Ignatian evening the following passage was used. The people there found it very helpful and so it was thought that it would be worth sharing with you for your own use.

Ignatian evenings are held monthly in church. A time of coming together just for an hour, to be quiet, to reflect, to spend time out of the ordinary. All are welcome and you would be too. Do come along, or have a word with someone if you are unsure.

A Simple Cyclamen

Spending a little time with someone recently I was touched by her description of coming before God meditating on a cyclamen plant.

She spoke...

- ♥ Of the leaves, the heart shaped leaves which seemed to her to represent God's heart of love for us all.
- ♥ Of the inner elongated heart 'painted' on the leaves speaking to her of God reaching out to each one of us with his longing love.
- ♥ Of the petals, signifying the way we can come before him, trusting him. Petals, tightly rolled, looking inward, pointing downwards, before God's transforming love takes us to new dimensions. Helping us to look upward and turn outward in new directions.



What do you see?

'Thanks be to God for his gift which is beyond all praise!' 2Cor 9.15

Sometime after that evening I found a quotation from Ann Frank's diary 23rd Feb 1944. 'I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.'

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Crossword Puzzle

Clues Across

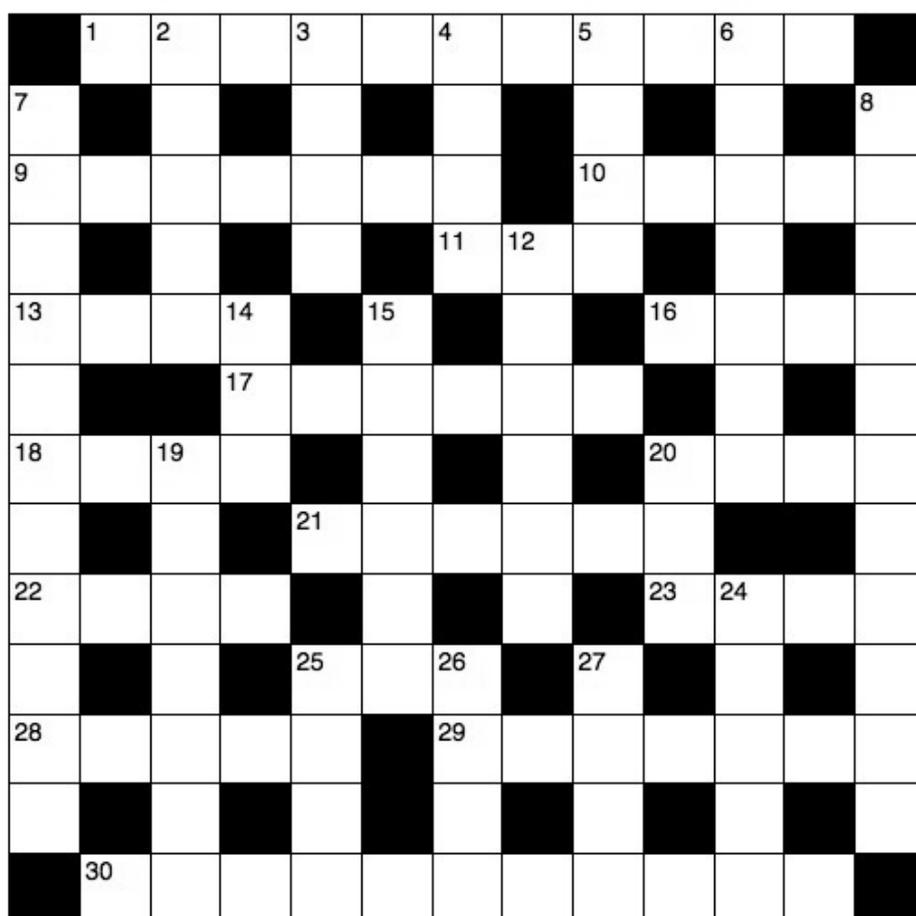
- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
13 Mede (anag.) (4)
16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
23 Edit (anag.) (4)
25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Clues Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)

- 8** 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12** 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14** This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15** Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19** He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20** 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24** 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25** Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26** 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27** Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

Solution is on Page 20



Prayers and Poems Page

Spring

Another winter finished;
Our hearts are full of joy!
The icy frosts diminish
And summer sun's ahoj!

Last summer seems so distant
The autumn leaves long gone;
But now, each passing instant
Is full of sunny song.

The seasons flow reminds us –
The climbing, sinking sun;
That death's dread cords won't bind us
Our time with Christ will come!

by Nigel Beeton

The Robin

Based on Matthew 28 v20

I often see the robin
Hopping round my tree
And sometimes in its foraging
It takes a peep at me.

Then, bit by bit, it edges close and peers –
'til suddenly it comes right up
To chirp quite forcefully.

Then deep within my memory
Stirs a once-heard ancient tale
Of how it got its red breast
On its tiny feathered frame.

It was on the hill called Calvary,
As Christ was crucified,
That a robin flew to sing to Him,
to ease His sorrow and His sighs.

Then Christ, in blessing, gave it His blood-
red breast to wear.
So now, my robin redbreast reminds me of
my Lord,
I remember He is with me
As He promised by His Word.

By Sam Doubtfire

The Wise Ram

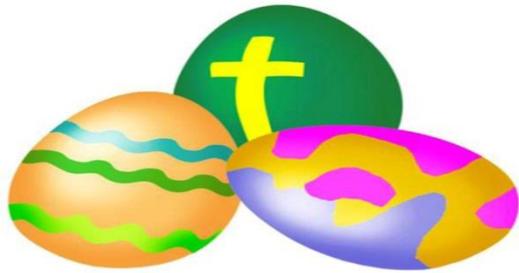
Said the sheep to the ram,
"I'm bored, so I am!
"The same old thing day after day!
"The same fields, the same scene
"The same grass, the same green
"The same horses with just the same neigh!"

The ram looked surprised;
"Just open your eyes!
"And look at that fine splendid view!
"Clouds fluffy and white
"Make a varying sight
"You really are one lucky ewe!"

"Those marvelous trees
"As they sway in the breeze
"Your senses with wonder should fill!
"The birds in the air,
"Make me just stand and stare –
"And the way that the light strikes that hill!"

"I think, my dear sheep
"That, if you look deep
"This world is a wonderful place!
"So, please, look again
"And you will regain
"A true sense of God's wondrous grace!"

by Nigel Beeton



Easter Crafts for Children

For Primary School Children

At St. Mary's Church
Ecclesfield

Easter Crafts for Children 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

On Palm Sunday - 9th April 2017

£2.00 per child.

Please complete a slip and bring it with you to the church if you wish to come to the craft session.

Slips can be obtained from the church or downloaded at our web site:

www.stmarysecclesfield.com

See our Forthcoming Events page.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Ecclesfield Park Tuesday 11th April 1pm to 3pm

Come and join in the fun
Annual Easter Egg Hunt along with making Easter Crafts
And Multi Sport Activities

£1 per participating child

(Includes Egg Hunt prize, Craft Activities, Multi Sports)

Meet at the Bowling Pavilion
Refreshments will also be on sale

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Contact Numbers for Local Groups 📞

Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 5.00 pm to 6.15 pm
Leader - Debbie
Tel: 07860 471793

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Monday 5.30 pm to 6.45 pm
Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson
Tel: 0114 257 8609

Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall
Tuesday 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm
Leader - Mrs A. Kendall
Tel: 0114 246 8866

Ecclesfield Guides

Gatty Hall
Thursday 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
Leader - Mrs C Topham
Tel: 0114 246 1289

Ecclesfield Priory Players

EPPIC Theatre
Monday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm
Wednesday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm
Secretary –Carol Travis
Theatre Tel No. 0114 240 2624

Ecclesfield Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park - Located between
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2nd Pack 6.30 pm to 8.0 pm
Leader - Mrs A Hancock
Tel: 0114 245 2780

Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)
Monday 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm
Leader - Mrs J Steel
0114 246 0218
Thursday 6.00 -7.15 pm
Rachael Otter 0114 246 1752

Ecclesfield Scouts

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Tel. 07983 719155
Group Scout Leader
John Otter Tel. 0114 246 1752

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